

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 051430Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584

S E C R E T CAIRO 2456

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (PRICE, MELVIN)

SUBJECT: CODEL PRICE INQUIRY

REF: CAIRO 2030

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY MENTIONED REFTTEL, PRESIDENT SADAT'S SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL CONTACTS, DR. ASHRAF MARWAN, HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON SOVIET MILITARY RESUPPLY TO EGYPT IN OCTOBER, 1973, FOR CODEL PRICE'S CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:

A) A TOTAL OF 189 AN-12 FLIGHTS AND 41 AN-22 FLIGHTS BROUGHT 3,530 TONS OF EQUIPMENT.

B) IN THAT SAME MONTH, BETWEEN OCTOBER 8 AND OCTOBER 22, SEVEN SOVIET SHIPS SEA-LIFTED A TOTAL OF 7,342 TONS OF EQUIPMENT.

C) THUS, A TOTAL OF 10,871 TONS OF EQUIPMENT WAS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH.

2. SOME OF THIS EQUIPMENT WAS LOST OR EXPENDED (AMMO) DURING THE HOSTILITIES.

3. NO INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON DELIVERIES BETWEEN NOVEMBER, 1973, AND MARCH 1974.

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4. DR. MARWAN REITERATED THE POINTS MADE BY PRESIDENT

SADAT TO CODEL PRICE; VIZ, CONTRARY TO ISRAELI CLAIMS, EGYPT DID NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE REPLACEMENT OF ITS LOSSES. IT RECEIVED NO MORE THAN TEN PERCENT OF EQUIPMENT LOST. DURING AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OCTOBER, 1973 HOSTILITIES, ACCELERATED DELIVERIES TOOK PLACE OF SOME EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES CONTRACTED FOR IN 1972 AND EARLY 1973, BUT THE SOVIETS HAVE STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO REPLACE LOSSES, DESPITE THE EGYPTIAN CONTENTION THAT THEY HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DO SO. THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED THAT SOME US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES MAY HAVE UNCRITICALLY ACCEPTED ISRAELI CLAIMS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF SOVIET RESUPPLY.

5. IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS MATTER, PRESIDENT HOPES THE COMMITTEE WILL KEEP THESE DATA CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL APPRECIATE WHY DETAILS CANNOT BE PROVIDED AT THIS TIME. EILTS

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NNN

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